

SCHOOL OF APPLICATION FOR
CAVALRY AND INFANTRY.

Fort Leavenworth, Kas., October 7, 1885.

Sir:

I have the honor to submit the following report of affairs pertaining to the School of Application for Cavalry and Infantry for the time since October 8, 1884, the date of the last preceding report:

At the date mentioned the officers receiving instruction **at the** school had **begun the** second year of the course which ended on July 1, last. Of forty officers in attendance during the year thirty received certificates of proficiency in all required studies and exercises, and ten failed to attain the standard in studies or exercises considered requisite by the staff of the school acting as examiners, and were denied diplomas. The relative standing for the two years' course of those officers who received diplomas, mention of such of them as excelled in the different branches of study, practical exercises, and in discipline, and a list of those who failed to complete the course, with a statement of the subjects in which they were respectively deficient, are embraced in orders of June 19, last, appended hereto. As appears from the order, none of the ten declared deficient belonged to the second class, consisting of nineteen members. That so large a part of this class, with two years allowed for study, should have failed to meet the very moderate requirements fixed for the class is remarkable. Having been so short a time on duty at the school, I cannot speak from personal

observation of the conduct of the individuals declared deficient, but evidently failure by most was due to neglect.

Refusal by the staff, of the school and the commanding officer to grant diplomas to these delinquents will have the effect of salutary warning to any in future disinclined to effort, but not indifferent to disgrace. A compend of orders for the post of Fort Leavenworth and School of Application was published by Colonel Otis, Twentieth Infantry, a short time before he relinquished command to me on June 29, last.

The rules for the School of Application are appended hereto; they embrace the substance of orders from Headquarters of the Army, relating to the organization of the school and the course of instruction, rules which are the joint action of the staff and the commanding officer, and orders of the commanding officer.

The question of regulations for the school is alluded to hereafter in this report.

Considerable increase has been made to the school library since the date of last report. It comprises about one thousand, three hundred well selected volumes. The post library contains one thousand four hundred and eighty-nine bound volumes and one thousand and seventy-two books in paper covers.

Very considerable addition has also been made of means for topographical work and for photographic and lithographic work. With the additions in appliances made during the year, efficient instruction can be given in most matters properly included under the designation, application.

The following changes in the composition of companies of the garrison have occurred since the date of the last annual report: Headquarters and Com-

panies A and I, Twentieth Infantry, left the post on May, 20 last; Troop G, Seventh Cavalry, and Troop M, 8th Cavalry, on June 3, last. Headquarters and Companies E and F, Eighteenth Infantry, joined on June 13 last, and Troops I, First Cavalry, and M, Sixth Cavalry, on June 3 and July 1 last, respectively. In consequence of a reported outbreak by the Cheyenne Indians of the Indian Territory, and pursuant to orders received, the four troops of cavalry on duty at the post, namely, Troop I, First Cavalry, Captain C. C. Carr, commanding; Troop B, Third Cavalry, Captain John B. Johnson, commanding; Troop L, Fourth Cavalry, Captain Theodore J. Wint, commanding; Troop M, Sixth Cavalry, Captain William A. Rafferty, commanding, left the post as a battalion under the command of Major George B. Sanford, First Cavalry, on July 8 for service in the field.

The battalion performed the duty of guarding the southern portion of the State of Kansas against possible incursion by Indians until recalled. The troops returned to the post on September 4 last. Light Battery F, Second Artillery, left the post in obedience to directions received from the department commander, on September 3 last, for a march of instruction, and returned on September 22, having marched about 200 miles. In addition to the foregoing statement relating to past occurrences and conditions, I would request attention to suggestions following relating to action I think advisable for the good of the school in future.

Additional quarters should be provided for officers belonging to the garrison, and those ordered from the regiments for instruction, and also particularly for a few officers of suitable rank to be selected from the Army at large for duty as instructors in certain branches.

Heretofore, almost from necessity, owing to the lack of accommodation, selection of officers, except field officers, for such duty has been nearly confined to officers belonging to companies serving at the post. Evidently the best results cannot be attained by such method; the range for selection is too narrow; even with the modification, if practicable, that officers belonging to companies ordered here to relieve others should have notice beforehand of the subjects in which they would be required to give instruction.

I do not say that no officers should be selected at large for duty as instructors, unless additional quarters be provided, but think on several accounts better results would follow if their coming did not bring discomfort to themselves or others. An estimate for construction of additional quarters for officers will be submitted.

A riding hall would be of great benefit, both 'to the troops of cavalry at the post and for instruction of student officers at times when outdoor exercises would not be practicable. An estimate for such building will also be presented. In asking that additional quarters and a riding hall shall be provided, I repeat the recommendations in such regard of Colonel Otis, whom I succeeded.

No system of general regulations for the conduct of the school has yet been adopted.

As appears from former reports delay in presentation of a system for sanction by superior authority has been made with purpose to take advantage in their preparation of the results of observation and experience, as indicated in General Orders No. 8, of 1882, from Headquarters of the Army. Regulations applicable, not only to the course of instruction, but the management of the school in general, without

embracing matters of detail, should, I think, be adopted. I hope, with the aid of the school staff, to submit a code of the kind stated within the present school year.

As such regulations will necessarily apply to the whole course of instruction and administration of the school, suggestions relating to these subjects are for the present deferred. Some variance in the order of studies for the first six months, as given in the compendium attached, has been made, and also in the method of instruction as applied to the second class. The first class will complete all mathematical study, requiring recitations, in the first six months, and instruction in topography will progress at the same time with that in mathematics.

By this means the way will be opened the soonest possible for all of the first class, and some of the second, for exercises in application, which depend, in whole or in part, on mathematical knowledge. It is hoped a considerable gain in time for such exercises may be had without detriment in other respects.

A change in method has been made in that members of the second class shall not be required to receive instruction in those branches prescribed for that class, and not for the first, class, in which they were individually pronounced qualified on preliminary examination. This course is entirely practicable, owing to the small number in the second class, and it will give the most members chance for much more rapid advancement than if all were required to pursue all the studies prescribed for the class.

The members of the second class, as compared with those of the first class, determined by the preliminary examination required by General Orders No. 8, of 1882, have been less each time.

As a result of the first of such examinations there were twenty-eight members in the first class and twenty in the second, in 1883; thirty in the first class and fourteen in the second, in 1884, and the present classification is thirty-two in the first class and seven in the second class, with four officers to be still examined. It is probable owing to the more comprehensive examination given within the past two years than formerly to applicants for commissions, that the second class hereafter will be small, should the distinction of classes be continued.

The question whether such distinction shall be made will be presented hereafter, I would suggest that, if thought expedient, an appropriation be asked of Congress of \$500, with intent that a like item be included in estimates hereafter for increase of the school library, and for appliances for use in practical instruction. A statement of items is forwarded herewith.

Very respectfully, Your obedient servant,

THOS. H. RUGER,

Colonel 18th Infantry,

Commanding.

To the Adjutant General,

U. S. Army,

Washington, D. G.